SIX MONTH SUSPENSION: Matter of William M. Chasanov, No. 508, 2004.

By Order of the Delaware Supreme Court dated February 22, 2005, William M. Chasanov was suspended by the Delaware Supreme Court for a period of six (6) months in connection with two separate client matters.

The first matter involved Chasanov's misrepresentations to the Family Court while representing a party. The Court found Chasanov's misconduct included failure to provide competent representation to a client in accordance with Rule 1.1; failure to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit his client to make informed decisions in accordance with Rule 1.4(b); knowingly making a false statement of material facts to the Family Court in violation of Rule 3.3(a)(1)]; engaging in an act of dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation in violation of Rule 8.4(c); and engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rule 8.4(d).

The second matter involved Chasanov's representation of an individual who engaged Chasanov through a prepaid legal plan. Chasanov accepted a legal fee but failed to perform the legal work for which he was engaged, and then refused to provide a refund of the fees upon request by the client. The fees were refunded by the firm after the first, but before the second, disciplinary hearing regarding Chasanov's misconduct. The Court found Chasanov's misconduct included failure to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in accordance with Rule 1.3; failure to keep his client reasonably informed and to comply with his client's reasonable requests for information in accordance with Rule 1.4(a); failure to explain a matter to the extent reasonable necessary to permit his client to make informed decisions in accordance with Rule 1.4(b) in accordance with Rule; failure to safeguard client funds and to deliver funds to his client upon request in accordance with Rule 1.15(a)in accordance with Rule; and failure to properly maintain his law practice books and records in accordance with Rule 1.15(d).